

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for washing the interior of containers (1) made of plastic material with a capacity ranging between 5 and 30 litres, which may be provided with a handle (7) to facilitate their handling, of the type comprising:

- means for gripping the container (1) in upside down condition, i.e. with a mouth (9) oriented downwards, so shaped as to allow also a rotation of the container (1) about its own central longitudinal axis;

- spraying means (4) for spraying suitable cleaning liquid inside the container (1) whilst said container (1) rotates about its own central longitudinal axis, characterised in that the spraying means comprise at least a pair of movable nozzles (4), so shaped as to produce at least a pair of rotating jets of cleaning fluid which simultaneously penetrate inside the container (1) through the mouth (9) to clean the interior of the container (1) and of the handle (7), if present.

2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spraying means comprise:

- a rigid conduit (3) for feeding the cleaning fluid provided on its own lateral surface of at least two series of nozzles (4);

- a star-shaped element (5) made integral with said conduit (3) and provided with a plurality of idle rollers (6), in a number equal to the number of nozzles (4) of each series, said star-shaped element (5) being set in rotation by the actuation of the container (1).

3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein each series of nozzles (4) comprises four nozzles and the star-shaped element (5) comprises four idle rollers (6), in such a way that a washing cycle corresponds to a 90° rotation of the conduit (3).

4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nozzles (4) are so shaped that in each initial or terminal phase of the rotary motion the two jets exiting the pair of nozzles internally clean the handle (7) of the container (1).

5. A machine for washing containers, characterised in that it comprises at least an apparatus as claimed in any of the previous claims.